

In the past month, I have been visiting senior around the district to listen to their concerns and answer their questions about health care reform. From Torrington to Berlin, Bloomfield to Southington, seniors wanted to know one thing about the legislation - how will it affect Medicare?

Medicare for the last 45 years has provided health care for Americans age 65 years and older, and this legislation will strengthen Medicare benefits, lower costs, while preserving Medicare's solvency for years to come.

Lower Drug Costs

Ending the 'donut hole' for prescription drug coverage, starting with a \$250 rebate for those in the donut hole in 2010—and phasing out the donut hole completely over time. Evidence suggests the “donut hole” coverage gap reduces seniors' use of drugs prescribed by their doctor by an average of 14%, posing a real health threat to seniors who simply cannot afford the drugs.

Free Preventative Care

You will pay nothing on recommended preventive services that will keep you healthier longer, including a free annual wellness visit. One in five women age 50 or over did not have a mammogram in the last two years, and 38% of adults age 50 or over have never had a colonoscopy – with costs often a factor.

Protection of Medicare

Extending the solvency of the Medicare Trust Fund by at least nine years, to help ensure Medicare can cover every American as they get older. Right now, the Medicare Trust Fund is projected to be exhausted in just seven years, in 2017, which if not addressed, could cause cuts to services.

Tighter Oversight

Focusing health care dollars on your care and benefits and cracking down on waste, fraud, abuse, and overpayments to enrich private companies. In the last year alone, improper Medicare payments that were discovered and stopped cost taxpayers more than \$450 million.